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ORDA Ethiopia's Accelerating Engagement of Youth in Policy Advocacy and Reporting for the Prevention of Harmful Practices and Violence against Children in Their Communities Project, which is funded by UNICEF.

PHOTO BOOK



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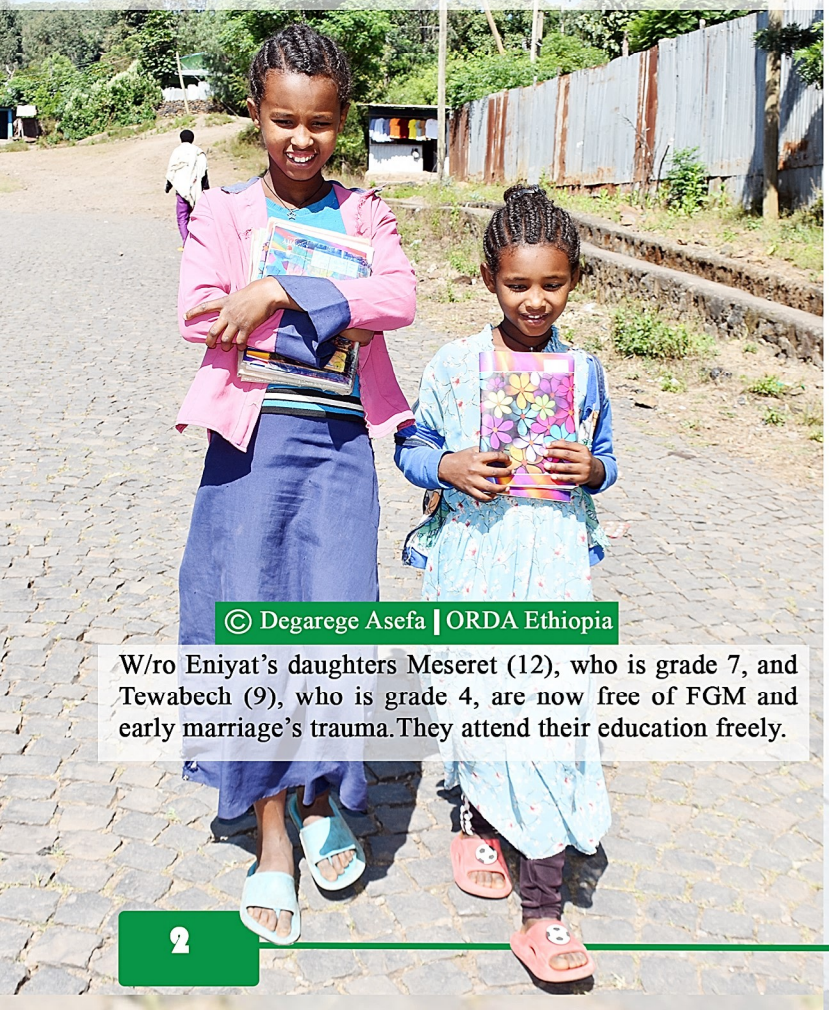
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"NoMore Circumcision Hereafter,"

- W/ro Eniyat Chane

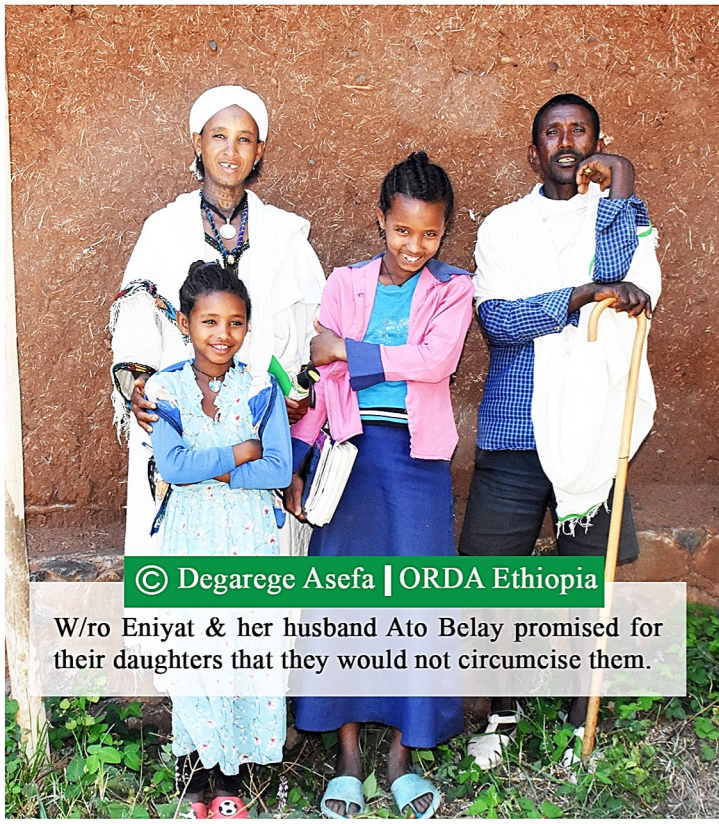
According to the 1999 report of the National Committee on Traditional Practices of Ethiopia, the main harmful practices in Amhara region included child marriage and Female genital mutilation (FGM). Amhara Region has FGM prevalence of 62 percent of women aged 15-49 who are circumcised.

W/ro Eniyat Chane (34) lives in Angot kebele, Amhara Region. She was circumcised at early age, and she was married at the age of 9. This created a score on her sexual organ and latter it brought difficulty at the time of sexual intercourse and child delivery. Actually, she did not recognize the impact of circumcision except its traditional myth about it.



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W/ro Eniyat's daughters Meseret (12), who is grade 7, and Tewabech (9), who is grade 4, are now free of FGM and early marriage's trauma.They attend their education freely.



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W/ro Eniyat & her husband Ato Belay promised for their daughters that they would not circumcise them.

She was amazed when trained about the negative impact of it from ORDA Ethiopia's Accelerating Engagement of Youth in Policy Advocacy and Reporting for the Prevention of Harmful Practices and Violence against Children in Their Communities Project, which is funded by UNICEF.

After she had trained by the project about FGM, she knew some girls in her village were exposed to fistula due to genital mutilation & early marriage. She has five children and three are girls. She did not circumcise the daughters for the sake of preventing unintended sexual relations traditionally. According to her, if they have matured, she would have circumcised them.

After the the awarness created by this project, Eniyat's daughters Meseret (12), who is grade 7, and Tewabech (9), who is grade 4, are now free of FGM and early marriage. And W/ro Eniyate made an oath to herself to not bring these kinds of problems on her kids, and her husband Belay (40) well recognized the FGM related problems.

"I would not practice neither FGM nor early marriage to my daughters hereafter. My daughters are attending their education freely and they are happy," W/ro Eniyat said.



School Communities' advocacy and campaign agianest harmful traditional practices (HTPs) close up ceremony.



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Positive parenting training for beneficiaries whose children are at risk of HTPs

School Girls Got a New Hope

The main harmful traditional practices in Amhara region are child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM), according to the 1999 report of the National Committee on Traditional Practices of Ethiopia. In the region, 43% of women from the age group 20-24 get married at the age of below 18. And this mainly affected girls who absented from school after marriage for full responsibility. Consequently, they were marginalized from economic, political and social participations.

Eyerus Dagnaw (14) lives in Shehoch Tehara kebele, Amhara Regiona. She is grade 5 student in Tehara primary school. She was supposed for early marriage before months. Hence, she would have been worried if she had absented from school due to the union.

ORDA Ethiopia's Accelerating Engagement of Youth in Policy Advocacy and Reporting for the Prevention of Harmful Practices and Violence against Children in Their Communities Project, which is funded by UNICEF, overcame her problem.

Ato Desalew Tilahun (29) is principal of Tehara Primary School. He has been trained about harmful traditional practices (HTPs) through the support of the project. He said that HTPs are highly practiced by the school surrounding community. After he had got awareness creation training about HTPs from the project, he mobilized the school community for attitudinal change by presenting poem, drama and other literature genres via girls clubs. He, as a principal, set up a discussion and peer education for students each Thursday. Consequently, he prepared a suggestion box for students to apply an early marriage at the spot. In this way, an attempt of early marriage for three girls has been cancelled off, and Eyerus (14) case is one of. Ato Desalew called her father, Ato Dagnaw Wubet, to cancel off the wedding program by bringing facts regarding the negative effects of early marriage on his daughter. And they reached an agreement.



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Eyerus (14) was supposed for early marriage which was failed through the help of this project's trained religious father and her school principal.

Ato Dagnaw Wubet, the father of Eyerus, has regretted by his action.

He said, "Eyerus was supposed to marry a deacon, church servant. I was influenced by my father- in-law's advice. He told me I should not turn her opportunity. But one of the community dialogue facilitator, the kebele chairperson and the police officer stopped me from the wedding ceremony process. Later, in other day of Saint George Holiday, I planned to make the wedding program simultaneously with the holiday for its mysteriousness. But the police officers heard and warned me. Finally, I cancelled off it, and Eyerus continues her Education".

Currently, Eyerus learns in grade 5. She said that she has a vision to be a medical doctor.



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After an early marriage suspended, Eyerus (14) is attending her education, and she has the vision to be a medical doctor.



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The Tehara School Principal Desalew (right) with a religious father (left) is counseling Ato Dagnaw (middle) and his dauther Eyerus about early marriage.

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Youth Activist' dialogue about HTPs. They produced dramas, Poems and theatre for the community that shows the negative consequence of child abuse, early marriage and female genital mutilation. They also share these ideas through telegram groups.

A Girl story who Scored 3rd Rank after Escaped from Early Marriage !



Maritu (17), right, escaped early marriage. She scored 3rd rank in garde 7, and she is attending her grade 8. She has the vision to be a medical doctor.

The main harmful traditional practices in Amhara Region are child marriage and female genital mutilation, according to the 1999 report of the National Committee on Traditional Practices of Ethiopia. In the region, 43% of women from the age group 20-24 got married at the age of below 18. And this mainly affected girls who absent from school after marriage for full responsibility. Consequently, they were marginalized from economic, political and social participations.

Farmer Wasu Belay (61) lives in Tara Gedam Kebele, Amhara Region. He participats in mitigating early marriage and female genital mutilation through ORDA Ethiopia's Accelerating Engagement of Youth in Policy Advocacy and Reporting for the Prevention of Harmful Practices and Violence against Children in Their Communities Project, which is funded by UNICEF.

According to Farmer Wasu, early marriage is high in their kebele, and the school girls absent from school due to early marriage. Especially, if the proposed husband has good wealth or famous traditionally, the parents' interest is very high for the early marriage, he said. As a witnessed, he heard of Maritu's (17) early marriage from Asiba primary school, and it was interrupted with the joint effort of the school community, police officers and him.



Farmer Wasu (61), who stoped Maritus's early marriage, and other religious fathers participation in trainings about eliminating HTPs

Maritu (17) said that she was supposed for early marriage beginning from 3 years ago that was at her 14.

"When I was grade 5, I was nominated to marry a deacon, but I opposed it. Once again, my parents asked me to marry when I was grade 7, last year. Then, collection of elder people came to our house immediately. At that time, my parents agreed, and based on the tradition, I was also asked to be agreed. But I run away from the village, and, sadly at the moment, I laid down and my front tooth was broken. I reported the case to Asiba Primary School Principal. Hence, the school principal & Farmer Wasu told my father to stop the marriage. That is why I am learning my grade 8 this year," she said.

Maritu (17) scored 3rd rank at grade 7; she has the vision to be a medical doctor.



Male engagements' training about reducing the house workload of women



Community dialogues about eliminating harmful traditional practices (early marriage, female genital mutilation and child abuse).